

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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SECRETARY UDALL SPELLS OUT HUNTING AND FISHING POLICY ON INTERIOR-ADMINISTERED FEDERAL LANDS

Administrative guidelines that will provide for "a thorough discussion of the problems" between State fish and game department officials and National Park Service management representatives were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The Interior statement of general policy with regard to fish and resident wildlife on Interior-administered lands was worked out by Interior Department officials after consultation with representatives of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners and other interested conservationists.

State laws and regulations with regard to public hunting, fishing, and possession of fish and resident wildlife will continue to apply "in a manner that is compatible with, and not in conflict with, the primary objectives as declared by Congress" for areas administered by Interior and subject to public hunting and fishing.

Areas involved are those administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Exceptions include the National Parks, the National Monuments, and historic areas of the National Park System.

Closure of lands to public hunting and fishing or restriction of public access for such purposes would be made by the Secretary only after consultation with appropriate State fish and game department officials, according to the newly-defined guidelines.

The general policy statement follows:

General Policy Statement
Re: Fish and Resident Wildlife
On Interior Lands

A. In all areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation, except the National Parks, the National Monuments, and historic areas of the National Park System, the Secretary shall--

1. Provide that public hunting of resident wildlife and fishing shall be permitted within statutory limitations in a manner that is compatible with, and not in conflict with, the primary objectives as declared by the Congress for which such areas are reserved or acquired;

2. Provide that public hunting, fishing, and possession of fish and resident wildlife shall be in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations, unless the Secretary finds, after consultation with appropriate State fish and game departments, that he must close such areas to such hunting and fishing or restrict public access thereto for such purposes;

3. Provide that a State license or permit, as provided by State law, shall be required for the public hunting, fishing, and possession of fish and resident wildlife on such areas;

4. Provide for consultation with the appropriate State fish and game department in the development of cooperative management plans for limiting over-abundant or harmful populations of fish and resident wildlife thereon, including the disposition of carcasses thereof, and, except in emergency situations, secure the State's concurrence in such plans; and

5. Provide for consultation with the appropriate State fish and game department in carrying out research programs involving the taking of fish and resident wildlife, including the disposition of the carcasses thereof, and secure the State's concurrence in such programs.

B. In the case of the National Parks, National Monuments, and historic areas of the National Park System, the Secretary shall--

1. Provide, where public fishing is permitted, that such fishing shall be carried out in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations, unless exclusive legislative jurisdiction has been ceded for such area, and a State license or permit shall be required for such fishing, unless otherwise provided by law;

2. Prohibit public hunting; and

3. Provide for consultation with the appropriate State fish and game departments in carrying out programs of control of over-abundant or otherwise harmful populations of fish and resident wildlife or research programs involving the taking of such fish and resident wildlife, including the disposition of carcasses therefrom.

In any case where there is a disagreement, such disagreement shall be referred to the Secretary of the Interior who shall provide for a thorough discussion of the problems with representatives of the State fish and game department and the National Park Service for the purpose of resolving the disagreement.

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